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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 H-02 SCA-01 PRS-01 L-03 DHA-02

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DRAFTED BY SCA/SCS/FESTEVENS/MRER
APPROVED BY SCA/SCS/LELAWRENCE
SCA/SCS/AAGISE
ARA/MEX-JTDREYFUSS
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AMCONSUL MONTERREY PRIORITY
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL TIJUANA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING

1. FASCELL SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING WENT VERY WELL. HEARING WAS COVERED BY PRESS AND TWO TELEVISION CREWS. CHAIRMAN FASCELL AND OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT (BUCHANAN AND ROSENTHAL) SEEMED APPROBATIVE OF CASE REVIEW RESULTS AND THOUGHTS FOR FUTURE OF CONSULAR WORK IN ARREST AND PRISONER FIELD. CONGRESSMAN STARK, WHO INTRODUCED H. RES. 313 BUT IS NOT MEMBER OF SUBCOMMITTEE, REMAINED UN-
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CONVINCED BY DEPARTMENT'S INITIATIVES AND PLANS, AND WAS

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INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN HIS HOPES OF PRISONER RELEASE.

2. CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED CONCERN WE MIGHT EXPAND TOO FAR INTO EXTRAVAGANT WELFARISM, BUT FELT WE ARE HEADED IN RIGHT DIRECTION IN PROVIDING CONTINUING EXTRAORDINARY SERVICES SUCH AS MONEY TRANSMITTAL, ETC. TO THOSE PRISONERS WHO HAVE NO OTHER EFFECTIVE RECOURSE.

3. CHAIRMAN COMMENTED AGAIN ON UNANSWERED FORMAL NOTES OF PROTEST, ETC. HE OBSERVED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LEAVE THESE NOTES OUTSTANDING, AND THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN SOME RESPONSE.

4. FORTHCOMING STEVENS/HUGHES TRIP AND PREPARATION OF PROTECTION HANDBOOK WERE REPORTED TO CONGRESS AS PART OF OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT.

5. CONGRESSMAN GILMAN WHO ALSO TESTIFIED, THOROUGHLY REINFORCED OUR POSITION. WE CONSIDER HIS TESTIMONY VERY HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH SOME OF HIS FIGURES SEEMED INCORRECT. FOR EXAMPLE, HE BELIEVED HE WAS TOLD IN MEXICO 200 AMERICANS ARE BEING ARRESTED PER MONTH. SOME CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED BY GILMAN AND BY CHAIRMAN OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO MEXICO NOT BEING USED FOR PRISONER WORK.

6. OUR OPINION IS THAT THE CASE REVIEW HAS SERVED DEPARTMENT WELL BOTH IN REPORTING TO SUBCOMMITTEE AND IN GIVING NEW AND WIDER PERSPECTIVE ON PRISONER PROBLEMS. SAME METHODOLOGY, PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO SYSTEMATIC AND COMPLETE REPORTING, SHOULD NOW CONTINUE TO BE USED ON CURRENT BASIS BY REGULAR STAFF BOTH IN DEPARTMENT AND IN FIELD. THIS HOLDS TRUE FROM INITIAL ARREST REPORT PER CA-3916 THROUGH SUBSEQUENT UPDATES. NOW THAT INITIAL PERIOD OF OVERSIGHT BY SUBCOMMITTEE HAS SERVED FUNCTION OF HELPING US TO GET MOVING, WE ARE COMMITTED TO REPORT TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE PROGRESS OF OUR OWN INITIATIVES IN DEVELOPING THE FUTURE PATTERN OF CONSULAR WORK IN ARREST AND PRISONER FIELD. STEVENS AND HUGHES WILL BRIEF POSTS IN MORE DETAIL DURING FORTHCOMING VISIT.

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7. GREATEST APPRECIATION TO ALL PERSONNEL CONCERNED IN REVIEW FROM ADMINISTRATOR WALENTYNOWICZ PERSONALLY AND ALL OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICERS INVOLVED. WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE HEAVY BURDEN ASSUMED BY POSTS AND ARE PLEASED WITH MAGNIFICENT WAY THEY HAVE HANDLED IT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE022292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCS/FESTEVENS/MRER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760034-0625
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976018/aaaaagot.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hattaycs
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING
TAGS: CASC, US, MX, (FASCELL, DANTE B)
To: MEXICO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006